

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

**BILL #:** PCB EDC 20-03 Higher Education

**SPONSOR(S):** Education Committee

**TIED BILLS:** None **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** None

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
Orig. Comm.: Education Committee		Sleap	Hassell

### SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill requires the University of Florida (UF) and Florida Polytechnic University (FPU) boards of trustees (BOTs) to submit an application for merger with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Upon approval of the merger, specified items must be transferred to UF, including the Florida Industrial and Phosphate Research Institute. FPU is required to transfer related foundation funds to the UF Foundation after obtaining donor consent.

The bill requires the Florida State University (FSU) and New College of Florida (NCF) BOTs to submit an application for merger with SACSCOC. Upon approval of the merger, specified items must be transferred to FSU.

The bill requires tuition and fees at FPU and NCF to remain in place for current undergraduate and graduate students until they graduate.

The bill revises the Florida Academic Scholars textbook award providing an additional stipend for textbooks if funds are specifically provided in the General Appropriations Act, in lieu of providing a \$300 cap for textbooks each fall and spring semester.

The bill revises the Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) award effective for students initially eligible in the fall 2021 semester, to provide for the following:

- A FMS student who is enrolled in an associate degree program at a Florida College System (FCS) institution is eligible for an award equal to 100 percent of tuition and applicable fees.
- A FMS student who earns an associate degree at an FCS institution with a 3.5 cumulative grade point average or higher is eligible for an award equal to 100 percent of tuition and applicable fees upon enrolling in a baccalaureate degree program at an eligible Florida postsecondary institution.
- A FMS student who earns an associate degree at an FCS institution with a 2.75 cumulative grade point average or higher, but below a 3.5, is eligible for an award equal to 75 percent of tuition and applicable fees upon enrolling in a baccalaureate degree program at an eligible Florida postsecondary institution.

The bill revises the intent of the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) program and the Access to Better Learning and Education (ABLE) Grant Program to be a financial aid program. Beginning with the fall semester of 2021, the bill requires students applying for an initial EASE or ABLE award to apply for the Pell Grant and meet the eligibility requirements for demonstrated financial need.

The bill would not be implemented until July 1, 2021; therefore there are no cost savings until FY 2021-2022, see Fiscal Comments, *infra*.

Except as otherwise provided, the bill has an effective date of July 1, 2021.

## FULL ANALYSIS

### I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

#### A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

##### **Florida Polytechnic University and New College of Florida**

###### Present Situation

###### *Florida Polytechnic University*

Florida Polytechnic University (FPU), located in Lakeland, Florida, was previously a campus of the University of South Florida that was operated and maintained as a separate organizational and budget entity of the University of South Florida.<sup>1</sup> In 2012, the Florida Legislature created FPU as a new and independent institution in the State University System.<sup>2</sup>

FPU specializes in degree programs in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.<sup>3</sup> The university has nine undergraduate degree programs and two graduate degree programs.<sup>4</sup> In the fall of 2019, FPU had a student body of 1,339 undergraduate and graduate students.<sup>5</sup> FPU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).<sup>6</sup>

The Florida Industrial and Phosphate Research Institute is located at FPU.<sup>7</sup> The institute is focused on researching phosphate issues that impact Florida's citizens, environment, and economy.<sup>8</sup> The institute also examines non-phosphate topics, such as energy and the mining and processing of minerals other than phosphate.<sup>9</sup>

The state cost per degree is \$180,958<sup>10</sup> at FPU compared to \$31,598<sup>11</sup> at the University of Florida (UF). In Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020, administrative costs are estimated to be 23%<sup>12</sup> of the university's budget at FPU, compared to UF's estimate of 9.8%.<sup>13</sup> If the administrative costs at FPU were only 9.8% of the budget, an additional \$5.6 million would have been available for instructional or other expenditures.

###### *New College of Florida*

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<sup>1</sup> Section 1, Ch. 2008-97, L.O.F.

<sup>2</sup> Section 9, Ch. 2012-129, L.O.F.

<sup>3</sup> Section 1004.345(1)(b), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Florida Polytechnic University, University Fact Sheet, available at <https://floridapoly.edu/about/facts/> (last visited Feb. 9, 2020).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> Section 1004.346(1), F.S.

<sup>8</sup> Florida Industrial and Phosphate Research Institute, *About Us*, available at <http://www.fipr.state.fl.us/about-us/> (last visited Feb. 9, 2020).

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> Florida Board of Governors, Presentation to the House Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee (Sep. 18, 2019), at 28, available at <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=3006&Session=2020&DocumentType=Meeting%20Packets&FileName=hea%209-18-19.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> House Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee, University Operating Budgets Overview, (Oct. 16, 2019), at 12, available at <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=3006&Session=2020&DocumentType=Meeting%20Packets&FileName=hea%2010-16-19%20REVISED.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

New College of Florida (NCF), located in Sarasota County, is one of Florida's twelve state university institutions.<sup>14</sup> NCF became an independent institution within the state university system in 2001<sup>15</sup> and has a distinctive mission as the residential liberal arts honors college of the State of Florida.<sup>16</sup>

In order to maintain the mission as a liberal arts honors college, NCF has the following goals:<sup>17</sup>

- To provide a quality education to students of high ability who, because of their ability, deserve a program of study that is both demanding and stimulating.
- To engage in educational reform by combining educational innovation with educational excellence.
- To provide programs of study that allow students to design their educational experience as much as possible in accordance with their individual interests, values, and abilities.
- To challenge students not only to master existing bodies of knowledge but also to extend the frontiers of knowledge through original research.

NCF offers nearly 40 majors for undergraduate studies and a master's degree program in Data Science.<sup>18</sup> In the academic year 2018-2019, NCF had a student body of 837 undergraduate and graduate students.<sup>19</sup> NCF is accredited by the SACSCOC.<sup>20</sup>

The state cost per degree is \$197,681<sup>21</sup> at NCF compared to \$36,857<sup>22</sup> at Florida State University (FSU). In FY 2019-2020, administrative costs are estimated to be 27%<sup>23</sup> of the university's budget at NCF, compared to FSU's estimate of 10%.<sup>24</sup> If the administrative costs at NCF were only 10% of the budget, an additional \$6.9 million would have been available for instruction or other expenditures.

## Effect of Proposed Changes

### Florida Polytechnic University

The bill requires the University of Florida (UF) and Florida Polytechnic University (FPU) boards of trustees (BOT) to submit an application to the SACSCOC for merger. Upon approval of the application, the bill requires the following transfers to be made:

- All real and personal property, licenses and associated revenues, existing contracts, unexpended balances, appropriations, allocations, funds, and mutually agreed-upon obligations, responsibilities, and liabilities of the FPU must be transferred to UF.
- All Florida Industrial and Phosphate Research Institute programs, functions, offices, records, faculty positions, and staff positions of the FPU must be transferred to UF.

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<sup>14</sup> Section 1000.21(6)(k), F.S.

<sup>15</sup> Section 36, ch. 2001-170, L.O.F. New College was founded as a private college in 1960, and joined the state university system as part of the University of South Florida in 1975. See New College of Florida, About, NCF History, *available at* <https://www.ncf.edu/about/history/> (last visited Feb. 9, 2020).

<sup>16</sup> Section 1004.32(1), F.S.

<sup>17</sup> Section 1004.32(1)(a)-(d), F.S.

<sup>18</sup> New College of Florida, Quick Facts, <https://www.ncf.edu/about/quick-facts/> (last visited Feb. 9, 2020).

<sup>19</sup> New College of Florida, 2018-2019 Fact Book (Oct. 28, 2019), at 10, *available at* <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1f0nIE6r94Cq7phZhsoq9P9aGIsWYSOO>.

<sup>20</sup> New College of Florida, Quick Facts, <https://www.ncf.edu/about/quick-facts/> (last visited Feb. 9, 2020).

<sup>21</sup> Florida Board of Governors, Presentation to the House Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee (Sep. 18, 2019), at 28, *available at* <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=3006&Session=2020&DocumentType=Meeting%20Packets&FileName=hea%209-18-19.pdf>.

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

<sup>23</sup> House Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee, University Operating Budgets Overview, (Oct. 16, 2019), at 12, *available at* <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=3006&Session=2020&DocumentType=Meeting%20Packets&FileName=hea%2010-16-19%20REVISED.pdf>.

<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

The bill requires FPU to obtain all consents required by the Federal Communications Commission and third parties and transfer the lease of federal communications licenses relating to Polk County to UF upon approval from the Federal Communications Commission.

The bill requires tuition and fees established by the Board of Governors (BOG) for FPU to remain in place for undergraduate and graduate students at the university until such students graduate.

The UF and FPU BOTs, and their respective officers, trustees, employees, attorneys, and agents, are provided immunity from any and all civil liability pertaining to or arising from compliance with this bill, including the transfers required in this bill.

The bill requires the FPU BOT, in conjunction with the UF Foundation, to develop and implement a plan to transfer, after obtaining consent from the appropriate donors, assets derived from donations intended for the enhancement of the FPU campus to the UF Foundation.

Upon approval of the merger by the SACSCOC, s.1004.345, F.S. and s. 1004.3451, F.S. will be repealed.

### New College of Florida

The bill requires the Florida State University (FSU) and New College of Florida (NCF) BOTs to submit an application to SACSCOC for merger. Upon approval of the application, the bill requires the following transfers to be made:

- All real and personal property, licenses and associated revenues, existing contracts, unexpended balances, appropriations, allocations, funds, and mutually agreed-upon obligations, responsibilities, and liabilities of NCF must be transferred to the FSU.

The bill requires tuition and fees established by the BOG for NCF to remain in place for undergraduate and graduate students at the university until such students graduate.

The FSU and NCF BOTs, and the their respective officers, trustees, employees, attorneys, and agents, are provided immunity from any and all civil liability pertaining to or arising from compliance with this bill, including the transfers required in this bill.

Upon approval of the merger by the SACSCOC, s.1004.32, F.S. will be repealed.

### **Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program Award**

#### Present Situation

In 1997,<sup>25</sup> the Florida Legislature created the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, a lottery-funded scholarship program, to reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition of high academic achievement and who enrolls in a degree program, certificate program, or applied technology program at an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary education institution.<sup>26</sup>

The Bright Futures Scholarship Program consists of four awards: the Florida Academic Scholarship, the Florida Medallion Scholarship, the Florida Gold Seal Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Scholarship, and the Florida Gold Seal Vocation Scholarship.<sup>27</sup>

Florida high school students who wish to qualify for the Florida Academic Scholar (FAS) awards or the Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) awards must graduate from a Florida public high school with a standard high school diploma, graduate from a registered Florida Department of Education private high

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<sup>25</sup> Chapter 97-379, L.O.F.

<sup>26</sup> Section 1009.53(1), F.S.

<sup>27</sup> Section 1009.53(2), F.S.

school, earn a general education diploma (GED), complete a home education program, or graduate from a non-Florida high school as an eligible student.<sup>28</sup>

A student must also meet the following initial eligibility requirements<sup>29</sup>:

Scholarship Type	16 High School Course Credits <sup>30</sup>	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT/SAT)	Service Hours	Award Amount
Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) <sup>31</sup>	4 - English (three must include substantial writing)  4 - Mathematics (at or above the Algebra I level)  3 - Natural Science (two must have substantial laboratory)	3.5	2019-20 Graduates: 29/1290 2020-21 Graduates: 29/1330	100 hours	100% of tuition and applicable fees and \$300 <sup>32</sup> for both fall and spring semesters for additional educational expenses.
Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) <sup>33</sup>	3 - Social Science  2 - World Language (sequential, in same language)	3.0	2019-20 Graduates: 26/1170 2020-21 Graduates: 25/1210	75 hours	75% of tuition and applicable fees.

A student who has demonstrated academic merit through a recognition program may be eligible for a Bright Futures Scholarship without having to meet one or more of the requirements above. These merit recognition programs include: National Merit Finalists and Scholars, National Hispanic Scholars, Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Diploma, International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, AICE Curriculum, and IB Curriculum.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>28</sup> 2019-20 Bright Futures Student Handbook, *Chapter 1: Initial Eligibility Requirements* (Aug. 16, 2019), at 3, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter1.pdf>. An out-of-state student may qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship if the student earned a high school diploma from a non-Florida school while living with a parent or guardian who is a Florida resident and on military or public service assignment away from Florida during the student's last year of high school.

<sup>29</sup> 2019-20 Bright Futures Student Handbook, *Chapter 1: Initial Eligibility Requirements* (Aug. 16, 2019), at 3, available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/BFHandbookChapter1.pdf>.

<sup>30</sup> The required coursework aligns with the State University System admission requirements found in Florida Board of Governor's Regulation 6.002, *Admission of Undergraduate First-Time-in-College, Degree-Seeking Freshmen*, available at [https://www.flbog.edu/wp-content/uploads/6.002FTICAdmissionsTechnicalchange2018\\_08\\_17-1.pdf](https://www.flbog.edu/wp-content/uploads/6.002FTICAdmissionsTechnicalchange2018_08_17-1.pdf).

<sup>31</sup> Section 1009.534, F.S.

<sup>32</sup> Section 1009.534(2), F.S.

<sup>33</sup> Section 1009.535, F.S.

<sup>34</sup> Section 1009.535(1)(b)-(e), F.S. and s. 1009.535(1)(b)-(e), F.S.

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program has disbursed over \$6.2 billion dollars in scholarship awards to over 2.7 million students since 1997.<sup>35</sup> For the 2018-2019 academic year, 53,742<sup>36</sup> students received a FAS award and 48,589<sup>37</sup> students received a FMS award.

## Effect of Proposed Changes

Beginning July 1, 2020, the bill provides an additional stipend for textbooks if funds are specifically provided for in the General Appropriations Act, in lieu of the \$300 FAS award disbursed each fall and spring semester for textbooks.

Effective for students initially eligible for a FMS award in the fall 2021 semester and thereafter, the bill makes the following changes to the FMS:

- A FMS student who is enrolled in an associate degree program at a Florida College System (FCS) institution is eligible for an award equal to 100 percent of tuition and applicable fees. Upon completion of his or her associate degree at a FCS institution, the student may transfer to a state university or eligible Florida postsecondary institution, or remain at the FCS institution and enroll in a baccalaureate degree program to continue receiving the FMS award.
- A FMS student who earns an associate degree at an FCS institution with a 3.5 or higher cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale is eligible for an award equal to 100 percent of tuition and applicable fees upon enrolling in a baccalaureate degree program at an eligible Florida postsecondary institution.
- A FMS student who earns an associate degree at an FCS institution with a 2.75 or higher cumulative grade point average, but below a 3.5, is eligible for an award equal to 75 percent of tuition and applicable fees upon enrolling in a baccalaureate degree program at an eligible Florida postsecondary institution.

## State Grant Programs

### Present Situation

#### *The William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education Grants*

The William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) program provides tuition assistance to undergraduate students attending an eligible private, non-profit Florida college or university.<sup>38</sup> The Legislature created the EASE grant program as a tuition assistance program as the award is not related to a student's financial need or other criteria upon which financial aid programs are based.<sup>39</sup>

A student is eligible to receive an EASE grant if he or she meets the following requirements:<sup>40</sup>

- The student meets the general requirements for student eligibility for state financial aid and tuition assistance, including residency.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, *Florida Bright Futures Students Counts and Total Costs* (as of Sep. 2019), available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/BFReportsA.pdf>.

<sup>36</sup> Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, *Florida Academic Scholars Postsecondary Enrollment* (as of Sep. 2019), available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/BFReportsF2.pdf>.

<sup>37</sup> Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, *Florida Medallion Scholars Postsecondary Enrollment* (as of Sep. 2019), available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/BFReportsF3.pdf>.

<sup>38</sup> Section 1009.89(3), F.S.

<sup>39</sup> Section 1009.89(1), F.S.

<sup>40</sup> Section 1009.89(4)(a)-(b)3., F.S. A student may not be enrolled in a program of study leading to a degree in theology or divinity.

<sup>41</sup> See s. 1009.40, F.S.

- The student is enrolled as a full-time<sup>42</sup> undergraduate student at an eligible college or university and making satisfactory academic progress as defined by the students enrolled institution.

For the 2018-2019 academic year, the EASE program awarded 45,803 students with an average grant award amount of \$2,992.68.<sup>43</sup>

In FY 2021-22, approximately 42,000 eligible Florida resident students are estimated to be enrolled in private postsecondary institutions, and eligible to receive the EASE grant.<sup>44</sup> According to data received from the Department of Education, in FY 2018-19, approximately 35 percent of students attending these institutions also received a need-based Florida Private Student Assistance Grant.<sup>45</sup> In addition, another 15 percent also received other merit or need-based state grants.<sup>46</sup>

### *The Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program*

The Access to Better Learning and Education (ABLE) Grant Program provides tuition assistance to undergraduate students enrolled in degree programs at eligible private, for-profit Florida colleges or universities or a nonprofit institution that is chartered out of Florida but meets specified requirements.<sup>47</sup> The Legislature created the ABLE grant program as a tuition assistance program as the award is not related to a student's financial need or other criteria upon which financial aid programs are based.<sup>48</sup>

A student is eligible to receive an ABLE grant if he or she meets the following requirements:<sup>49</sup>

- The student meets the general requirements for student eligibility for state financial aid and tuition assistance, including residency.<sup>50</sup>
- The student is enrolled as a full-time<sup>51</sup> undergraduate student at an eligible college or university in a program of study leading to a baccalaureate degree and making satisfactory academic progress as defined by the students enrolled institution.

For the 2018-2019 academic year, the ABLE program awarded 2,298 students with an average grant award amount of \$2,620.98.<sup>52</sup>

In FY 2021-22 approximately 1,800 eligible Florida resident students are estimated to be enrolled in private postsecondary institutions, and eligible to receive the ABLE grant.<sup>53</sup> According to data received from the Department of Education, in FY 2018-19, approximately 46 percent of students attending these institutions also received a need-based Florida Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant.<sup>54</sup>

### **Effect of Proposed Changes**

The bill revises the intent of the EASE and ABLE grant programs to be financial aid programs.

<sup>42</sup> Full-time is defined as enrolling in a minimum of 12 credit hours per term, or the equivalent. William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student education Program, *Fact Sheet* (2019-20), available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/factsheets/EASE.pdf>.

<sup>43</sup> Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance, *2018-2019 End-of-Year Report Effective Access to Student Education*, available at [https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/FRAG\\_2018\\_2019.pdf](https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/FRAG_2018_2019.pdf).

<sup>44</sup> Email, Florida House of Representatives, Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee (Feb. 11, 2020).

<sup>45</sup> FY 2018-19, of the 45,803 awards, 13,962 students received both EASE and FSAG – Private grants

<sup>46</sup> Email, Florida House of Representatives, Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee (Feb. 11, 2020).

<sup>47</sup> Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program, *Fact Sheet* (2019-20), available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/factsheets/ABLE.pdf>.

<sup>48</sup> Section 1009.891(1), F.S.

<sup>49</sup> Section 1009.891(4)(a)-(b), F.S. A student may not enrolled in a program of study leading to a degree in theology or divinity.

<sup>50</sup> See s. 1009.40, F.S.

<sup>51</sup> Full-time is defined as enrolling in a minimum of 12 credit hours per term, or the equivalent. Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program, *Fact Sheet* (2019-20), available at <https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/factsheets/ABLE.pdf>.

<sup>52</sup> Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance, *End-of-Year Report 2018-19 Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program*, available at [https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/ABLE\\_2018\\_2019.pdf](https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/PDF/PSI/ABLE_2018_2019.pdf).

<sup>53</sup> Email, Florida House of Representatives, Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee (Feb. 11, 2020).

<sup>54</sup> FY 2018-19, of the 2,298 awards, 1,062 students received both ABLE and FSAG – Postsecondary grants



Beginning with the fall 2021 semester, the bill requires a student seeking an initial EASE or ABLE grant award to apply for the Federal Pell Grant Program and meet the eligibility requirements for demonstrated financial need for the Florida Private Student Assistance Grant Program.<sup>55</sup> A student who does not qualify for need-based aid, would not be able to receive an EASE or ABLE award.

## B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

**Section 1:** Requiring the boards of trustees of the University of Florida and Florida Polytechnic University to submit a merger application to a specified entity; providing for the transfer of the Florida Polytechnic University to the University of Florida.

**Section 2:** Requiring Florida Polytechnic University to take specified actions to obtain consents for the transfer of a specified educational broadband service station license; requiring Florida Polytechnic University to assign the license for such service station to the University of Florida; providing duties and responsibilities of the University of Florida.

**Section 3:** Requiring the boards of trustees of the Florida State University and New College of Florida to submit a merger application to a specified entity; providing for the transfer of New College of Florida to the Florida State University.

**Section 4:** Requiring the tuition and fees for Florida Polytechnic University and New College of Florida to remain in place for a specified period.

**Section 5:** Providing immunity.

**Section 6:** Amends s. 1004.32, F.S.; providing for the contingent future repeal of specified provisions relating to New College of Florida.

**Section 7:** Amends s. 1004.345, F.S.; providing for the contingent future repeal of specified provisions relating to Florida Polytechnic University.

**Section 8:** Amends s. 1004.3451, F.S.; providing for the contingent future repeal of specified provisions relating to Florida Polytechnic University.

**Section 9:** Amends s. 1009.534, F.S.; authorizing Florida Academic Scholars to receive a stipend, as provided in the General Appropriations Act, for specified educational expenses.

**Section 10:** Amends s. 1009.535, F.S.; revising the amount of an award certain Florida Medallion Scholars may receive under certain circumstances.

**Section 11:** Amends s. 1009.89, F.S.; deleting legislative findings; providing that the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education Grant Program is a financial aid program for specified state residents; revising the eligibility criteria for the programs.

**Section 12:** Amends s. 1009.891, F.S.; deleting legislative findings; providing that the Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program is a financial aid program for specified state residents; revising the eligibility criteria for the program.

**Section 13:** Provides for an effective date of July 1, 2021, except as otherwise provided in the bill.

## II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

### A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

#### 1. Revenues:

Each section of the bill would not be implemented until July 1, 2021; therefore there are no cost savings until FY 2021-2022. See Fiscal Comments.

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<sup>55</sup> Section 1009.51, F.S.



2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

*New College of Florida and Florida Polytechnic University*

Programmatic and administrative savings associated with merging Polytechnic University with the University of Florida and New College with Florida State University are anticipated; however, any cost savings are indeterminate until the transfer occurs and analysis of each institution's structure can be performed to determine operational needs.

*Bright Futures*

Cost savings would be dependent upon whether a student opts to take advantage of receiving a Bright Futures Florida Medallion Scholarship (FMS) award that pays 100% of the cost of tuition and fees at a Florida College System (FCS) institution, or chooses to receive 75% of tuition and fees and attend a State University System (SUS) institution. Currently approximately 75% of initial FMS recipients choose to enroll in SUS institutions, even though the net student cost is \$79 per credit hour higher than if he or she attended a Florida College institution.<sup>56</sup> The savings to the state are indeterminate, since behavior cannot be predicted.

Currently, House Bill 5001, the General Appropriations Act FY 2020-2021 includes \$40.5 million to fully fund each Bright Futures FAS for \$300 each fall and spring term for textbooks.

### III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

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<sup>56</sup> A Bright Futures FMS award, at 75% of tuition and fees, pays \$159 at a state university and \$80 at a college

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

**IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES**

Not applicable.